you may not have any considerable experience of municipal administration, you are all people possessing much intelligence and sense of responsibility, and it will not take you very long to fall into line with approved municipal administration. It seems to me that in due course any defects that now exist will be remedied. I do not by this mean that Government should remove all control or that they should cease to have anything to do with municipal administration. When the administration of a particular Municipality becomes so bad or paralysed by dissensions or other causes, Government should, no doubt, intervene and effectively too. Ordinarily, however, the Councils, composed as they are very largely of non-officials possessed of intelligence and a sense of responsibility, should try to remedy defects by their own efforts. I quite agree with you in the observation that there is a great deal of diversity as regards the size and importance of Municipalities, and it is rather unfortunate that all the 19 towns in the State should be worked under the same Regulation and expected to be administered in the same way. There may be no need for a Municipality in a place which does not contain a large population and which is not decidedly urban in its character, and any proposal placed before Government with a view to take a rural place outside the pale of the Municipal Regulation would be considered carefully and sympathetically. I may add that the Village Panchayat Regulation which is now under preparation would afford a less costly but more suitable method of administering the less important towns.

**110. Desirability of converting the Pallikkal Ayurveda Vaidyasala into a dispensary.**

*Mr. K. G. Thomas* (Member, Nominated) spoke in high terms of the management of the Ayurveda Department and suggested that the department might be improved by (1) starting a Government herbarium, (2) abolishing useless vaidyasalas, and (3) sanctioning more substantial grants at the rate of Rs. 50 per mensem to each vaidyasala. He also requested that a monthly grant of not less than Rs. 50 be sanctioned to the vaidyasala established at a cost of Rs. 3,500 at Pallikkal in the Mavelikara taluk. He suggested the use of machinery for the manufacture of medicines in the Pharmacy.

*Dewan's reply.*—I have to give you the same reply that I gave to the gentleman from Chirayinkil who spoke on the subject of Ayurveda yesterday. The policy of Government is to further improve the system of Ayurvedic treatment and Government are willing to allot more money if proposals come up from the Director of Ayurveda. As far as I remember, we have been generally sanctioning all the proposals coming from the Director for the improvement of the Department. Even in regard to the machinery that you wish to see introduced to improve the output of medicines in the Pharmacy, if the Director makes the necessary proposals, Government will view them sympathetically. As for a Herbarium, there is one now, but the soil of it is not suited for the purpose, and the Director is on the look out for a more eligible site.

In regard to grant-in-aid institutions also, it is for the Director to say which institution deserves more grant, and which less. We have appointed an Inspector of Vaidyasalas who will be able to furnish the Director with the requisite data in this matter. You may be interested to hear that we have arranged for anatomical studies in the General Hospital for the students of the Ayurveda Patasala. They have to study this by dissection of dead bodies, and the Darbar Physician has kindly agreed to provide the necessary facilities for the purpose.

## VI. EDUCATION.

**111. Certain problems connected with education and the work of the Education Department.**

*Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai B. A., B. L.* (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) referred to the progress of education in the State as seen from the various reports published from time to time, and said that it pointed to a deplorable condition of affairs. In spite of the fact that Travancore was superior to other parts of India in point of education, Travancoreans were not found fit to fill the higher appointments in the

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State service. He criticised the work of His Highness the Maha Raja's College both from a disciplinary and a teaching point view and deplored the absence of personal touch between the teachers and the taught. Much attention was not being paid to character-building and the Member thought that the secularisation of education was perhaps one of the causes that contributed to that result. Race-hatred and class jealousies rent the very atmosphere of College life, as an instance of which he cited the fact that the late Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar's good conduct prizes could not be awarded for successive years as communal jealousies divided the students into hostile camps. The teaching staff did not do enough to bridge those differences and the students were not being given opportunities for healthy intercourse outside the class room.

The Member quoted certain figures to show that the tuition imparted in the College for the last several years was going from bad to worse. He requested Government to find out the number of hours in a week that a Professor devoted to his lectures in the various classes. The Member next dilated on the abolition of the Philosophy chair in the College and requested that it be restored. He thanked Government for the proposed institution of the Natural Science chair in the College.

The English staff of the College next engaged the Member's attention. As against the sanctioned strength of three English Professors, there were now only one Professor and an Assistant Professor who acted as Professor. If the latter was found fit, he should be confirmed, or better still, he might be sent to England for training and confirmed after such training. Otherwise, proper men should be secured from elsewhere. He believed that at least one Englishman was indispensable on the staff of English Professors. He must be a really learned and capable man and, if he insisted on a good salary, it should be given.

In spite of all the interest Government were taking in the matter of vernacular and technical education, the results were not quite satisfactory. The Member condemned in strong terms the present tendency of school education and the disastrous results it produced, and put in an earnest plea for the encouragement in a larger measure of technical and industrial education. The Government had in the space of 20 years appointed five or six committees at much cost. He thought that such ephemeral committees only retarded the cause of education. He questioned the popular character of the conference convened last year to discuss the reports of the Education Expenditure Committee and the Curricula Revision Committee. He disapproved of the policy of drift and educational experimentation which characterised the working of the Education Department and appealed to Government for the appointment of a committee of really able educationists of established reputation.

The Member next proceeded to deal with the students' strike and the unfortunate events that transpired in the College compound on the 5th Kanni 1097 as a result of the strike. Government attributed the incident at first to the influence of mischief-makers. An interpellation in the Legislative Council as to who the mischief-makers were did not elicit a proper reply. Mischief might be due to various causes and the Member was sorry that Government were so credulous as to believe in the theory of extraneous mischief-making which was started by interested persons. His own view was that the strike occurred as a result of the inefficiency of the Education Department as a whole. He would, therefore, hold the educatioanl officers more responsible for the incidents of the 5th Kanni than the Police and the Magistracy. He advocated a thorough reform of the Department. It was in the Educational Department more than in any other that more Travancoreans were required. The Teachers' Conference which held its first session recently should be encouraged with the support and assistance of Government. It should be laid down for future guidance that only those who knew the vernaculars of the country well should be appointed to the place of Director. A working knowledge of Malayalam should be made a *sine qua non* of high administrative appointments in the Education Department.



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The Member then proceeded to criticise the action of Government in connection with the strike in the light of the Press communiqués issued on the subject and observed that it was desirable to re-admit the rusticated pupils to school, and withdraw the prosecutions against the school-boys as a special case. Government would also be doing a graceful act, if they expressed regret for the excesses committed by some of their officers and gave strict injunctions to the Department of Education to show more care, more efficiency and more sympathy in their work. They would also be acting wisely, if they did not rake up this nauseating question by the levy of increased fees in the near future.

*Dewan's reply.*—I thank you for your interesting paper. You have dealt with matters of such great magnitude that it would be rash for me to attempt to give an off-hand reply, especially as I am labouring under an additional disadavantage in that you did not furnish me with a list of the points on which you were going to speak.

You have attacked, in very strong terms, His Highness the Maha Raja's College and the character of the education imparted in it. It is not our contention that the system of education imparted in the College is perfect. But I would remind you that, imperfect as the education imparted in this College is, it is subject to the supervision of the Madras University. In regard to the School Department, you deprecate the appointment of occasional Committees and Conferences and the adoption of what you are pleased to call a policy of drift. I certainly deprecate, as strongly as you do, a policy of drift, and, so far as it has been in my power, I have been attempting to stop that policy.

*Member.*—Thank you, Sir.

*Dewan.*—In regard to Committees and Conferences, you have criticised a conference which I summoned about a year ago and on the recommendations of which some of the decisions of Government have been based. I believe such of the members present to-day as were also present at the last session of this Assembly remember that the question of this Conference came up before the House last year, and one of the members then present, Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappillai, said "We want in this Conference men who would express their opinion fearlessly," and I replied, "It is exactly such men that I want"; and I invited the House to suggest the names of the gentlemen who, in their opinion, would answer to that description. That does not show that Government wanted to have in the Conference men in whose opinion the public can have no confidence.

You have touched upon the question of the students' strike. It is a vexed question and an unfortunate question. I was not aware that you were going to deal with that question. You attacked chiefly one sentence in one of the Communiqués issued by the Government, namely, that in which the Government said there were reasons to believe that the students were set upon and encouraged by mischief-makers. You yourself gave an answer to your own objection when you said that the mischief might have proceeded from various sources. It might have flowed from non-co-operators or from others. I am sure you will give the Government credit to this extent at least, that Government would not have made that statement without sufficient materials before them for making it. The conduct of the various departmental officers in connection with this deplorable event is under examination by the Government, and I expect that that conduct, if it is faulty in the case of any body, will receive deserving punishment. I may also add that all the points touched by you will receive careful examination at the hands of Government.

**112. Educational reforms in Travancore.**

*Mr. P. Velayudhan Pillai* (Member, Municipal Council, Neyattinkara) referred to the progress of education in the State as compared with other parts of India and said that, in spite of this all-round progress, there was still a dark and gloomy side and that urgent reforms were necessary in regard to the following matters:—(1) to keep the growth of primary education consistent with the growth of modern political life; (2) to keep the diffusion of mass education steadily in view; (3) to make the

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